

EDUCATOR RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

The Gulf Islands National Seashore is a protected region of barrier islands along the Gulf of Mexico and features historic resources and recreational opportunities spanning a 12-unit park in Florida and Mississippi. The Mississippi section encompasses Cat Island, Petit Bois Island, Horn Island, East and West Ship Islands, and the Davis Bayou area. Barrier islands, long and narrow islands made up of sand deposits created by waves and currents, run parallel to the coast line and serve to protect the coast from erosion. They also provide refuge for wildlife by harboring their habitats. From sandy-white beaches to wildlife sanctuaries, Mississippi's wilderness shore is a natural and historic treasure. This guide provides an introduction to Ship Island, including important people, places, and events, and also features sample activities for usage in elementary, middle and high school classrooms.

ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

The Gulf Islands: Mississippi's Wilderness Shore is a Mississippi Public Broadcasting production showcasing the natural beauty of The Gulf Islands National Seashore Park, specifically the barrier islands in Mississippi – Cat Island, East and West Ship Islands, Horn Island, and Petit Bois Island – and the Davis Bayou area in Ocean Springs.

The Gulf Islands National Seashore Park stretches 160 miles from Cat Island to the Okaloosa area near Fort Walton, Florida. The Gulf Islands documentary presents the islands' history, natural significance, their role to protect Mississippi's coast from hurricanes and the efforts to further protect and restore them.





SHIP ISLAND PEOPLE



THE HISTORY





Ship Island, Mississippi has served as a crossroads through 300 years of American history. Having the only deepwater harbor between Mobile Bay and the Mississippi River, the island served as a vital anchorage for ships bearing explorers, colonists, sailors, soldiers, defenders and invaders. Below are listed a few of the thousands of people who have either anchored in this small island's safe harbor or may even have stepped onto its shore for a period of time.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Did Native Americans frequent Mississippi's offshore barrier islands? The answer is less than definitive. Tribes certainly lived along the Gulf of Mexico's northern coastline, taking advantage of the many hunting and fishing opportunities among the bayous and rivers. Archeologists have found numerous signs of human presence including burial sites and midden piles, but only on the mainland and on islands very close to shore.

Transportation was not a hindrance to visit the farther offshore barrier islands. French explorers met Native Americans using small boats in Biloxi Bay, but the evidence of Native-Americans visiting islands six to ten miles offshore remains slim. There are no known village sites or midden piles, but stone projectile points, arrowheads or spear points, occasionally discovered in the sand suggests that someone centuries ago may have had a reason to visit Ship Island.

PIERRE LE MOYNE, SIEUR D'IBERVILLE

"We came in, under shelter of an island or the point of an island, where we are protected from winds from the south-southwest, south- southeast, and east by the island and from the northeast and the north and the northwest by the mainland, three and a half leagues from us, and from the west and southwest by an island two leagues away. We have found no less than 23 feet of water, and we are anchored a cannon's shot off the island in 26 feet of water."

"February 10th, 1699 D' Iberville anchoring at Ship Island, "D' Iberville's Gulf Journals"

French-Canadian, <u>Pierre Le Moyne D' Iberville</u>, anchored his small fleet of five ships off Ship Island in February 1699. Serving King Louis XIV of France, D' Iberville and his men left the fleet safely at anchor in the island's deep-water harbor, rowing ashore in small boats. Their orders included establishing the colony of Louisiana, exploring the Gulf of Mexico's northern coast and finding the mouth of the Mississippi River.

For decades earlier, explorers had paddled the Mississippi River's length from Canada southward, but no European knew the river's exact entry point into the sea. Discovery of its mouth by D' Iberville cemented French claims to an area approximately one third of today's United States of America. Control of the Mississippi River Valley further served French interests by hemming in England's colonies on the Atlantic coast and blocking Spanish expansion northward from Mexico and Central America.

Cementing alliances with local tribes, D' Iberville established Louisiana and its first capital on today's Mississippi coast. For the next sixty years, the deep-water anchorage and French warehouse at Ship Island supported Biloxi, Mobile, New Biloxi and then New Orleans as each community on the coast served in turn as the capital of Louisiana.



CASSETTE GIRLS

On January 3rd, 1721, two transport ships arrived from France and anchored off Ship Island. Aboard were 300 young women bound for colonial settlements on the Yazoo River, Bay St. Louis and Pascagoula Bay. Two days later, a third ship dropped anchor with 81 more girls and young women, accompanied by Catholic nuns including Sisters Gertrude, St. Louis and Marie. Records suggest ages varied from as young as fifteen years of age to women in their early twenties.

"Filles a la cassette" was the name given to these young ladies sent to establish families in early 18th century Louisiana. Carrying personal belongings in a small casket or trunk, they set sail from France seeking husbands among colonists and soldiers living in the relatively new colony.

Collected first from jails, but afterwards from convents and orphanages, the women were part of France's efforts to turn its distant outpost of Louisiana into a flourishing, well-populated colony. Each bride was provided with a wedding outfit and was enjoined not to marry without consent from the watchful nuns.

VICE ADMIRAL SIR ALEXANDER COCHRAN

In December 1814, Admiral Sir Alexander Cochran anchored between Ship Island and Cat Island with a fleet of fifty British warships and 7,500 soldiers. After burning Washington, D.C. and unsuccessfully attacking Fort McHenry near Baltimore, Cochran's next move was to turn south towards the Gulf of Mexico and attempt an invasion of New Orleans, Louisiana. This would lead to the final major battle between Great Britain and the United States during the War of 1812.

Controlling New Orleans would mean, in effect, taking the Mississippi River away from the United States. But first, Admiral Cochran would have to gain control of the Mississippi Sound.

With depths too shallow for large warships, the admiral dispatched an armada of 45 small boats and barges manned by 1,200 British sailors and marines. These forces engaged American gunboats and schooners at Bay St. Louis and in the Rigolets, the marshy passage leading into Lake Bourne and the approaches to New Orleans.

Following two horrific battles afloat, a small fleet of American gunboats was overpowered on December 14th, 1814. Including both sides, 94 combatants were dead or wounded following exchanges of shellfire, grapeshot and hand-to-hand combat.

The way was then clear to move thousands of invasion troops forward from Ship Island to the decisive battle against American forces led by future president, General Andrew Jackson. Defeated on January 8th, 1815, the last major invasion force to attack one of the contiguous 48 states within the United States withdrew from the northern Gulf coast.

GENERAL SIR EDWARD PAKENHAM

Sir Edward Pakenham, brother-in-law to Britain's great hero of the Napoleonic Wars, the Duke of Wellington, led British forces in the pivotal land attack against American troops defending the city of New Orleans. The



warship transporting General Pakenham from Europe dropped anchor off Ship Island on December 24th, 1814, ten days after the earlier naval battles that gave the British control of the Mississippi Sound. On Christmas Day 1814, Pakenham made the 60-mile crossing by small boat to Bayou Bienvenue. Stepping ashore, he assumed command of his troops and began directing forces into position for the capture of New Orleans.

On January 8th, 1815, Pakenham fell mortally wounded while attempting to rally his troops against rifle and cannon fire from American defenses alongside the Mississippi River. Weeks later, the British fleet and army departed Ship Island with Pakenham's remains on board.

EDWARD HAVENS

On Christmas Day 1853, Edward Havens became the first keeper of the Ship Island lighthouse station at a salary of \$500.00 per year. Completed in March of the same year, the 45–foot brick tower stood not far from the island's west tip, marking the entrance to Ship Island's harbor and deep-water anchorage. Havens would serve as keeper until his death eighteen months later.

MRS. MARY HAVENS

Mary Havens became Ship Island's lighthouse keeper in June 1855, appointed following her husband's accidental death. Mrs. Havens served in that capacity until her own death sixteen months later.

FIRST LT. FREDERICK PRIME

The attacks by British forces against Washington, Baltimore and New Orleans in 1814–15 identified the need for improved defenses to protect the United States from attack by sea. The U.S. Congress approved an ambitious plan to construct state-of-the-art masonry fortifications at strategic locations along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

On February 22nd, 1859, First Lieutenant Frederick E. Prime was appointed superintending engineer for the fort planned for Ship Island. Prime succeeded Second Lieutenant Newton F. Alexander, who had performed initial planning but died of yellow fever before the beginning of construction.

Despite being first in his West Point class and having nearly a decade of experience, Prime must have found building a brick fort on a barrier island to be a series of challenges. These included securing building supplies, finding craftsmen willing to work in isolated conditions, and then somehow transporting everything to a remote construction site. Hurricanes, storms, dampness, disease and semitropical heat were almost constant irritants that sometimes did delay his construction schedule.

On June 13th, Prime sought permission to hire a physician during the sickly season. He explained his men were constantly wet and complaining of sore eyes, perhaps from blowing sand, salt-spray and bright sun.

After Mississippi voted to secede from the Union in January 1861, construction under Prime's leadership halted. After a third and final armed party landed to take possession of the unfinished fort, Prime considered himself relieved of responsibility, dismissed his civilian workers and departed for Washington, D.C., after paying his bills.



LT. COLONEL HENRY WATKINS ALLEN

Commanding companies from the 4th Louisiana Infantry regiment, Lieutenant Colonel H.W. Allen occupied Ship Island's unfinished fort in mid-1862. Fearing attack by Union naval forces, Allen set his Confederates to work mounting cannons and extending the fort's incomplete brick walls by filling and stacking sandbags.

In a letter published in the Baton Rouge <u>Weekly Advocate</u>, dated July 30th, Allen wrote, "Here we intend to stay and keep 'watch and ward' over this 'Isle of tranquil delight' in spite of mosquitoes, hot sun, bilge water, live Yankees and big ships."

Allen's philosophy of command was strict with no whiskey, rum or other forms of alcohol allowed on the island. Failure of military discipline was harshly punished.

When a company of soldiers temporarily under his command mutinied, Allan called out his own 4th Louisiana Company on the mutineers with loaded rifle-muskets, quelling the mutiny without loss of blood.

Ordered to evacuate in September 1862, Allen left a note on the camp bulletin board. Union sailors landing, following his departure, read of Allen's desire to again meet the officers and crew of the U.S.S. Massachusetts, a Union frigate that exchanged cannon fire with Ship Island's Confederate forces months earlier in July 1862.

COLONEL EDWARD JONES

Colonel Edward F. Jones commanded the Sixth Massachusetts and landed with his regiment on Ship Island in December 1861. Under the overall command of General Benjamin Butler, the Sixth Massachusetts was one of the first units to arrive on Ship Island in preparation for the attack planned against New Orleans.

Less than a year before his arrival, Jones had been a civilian. Like most soldiers in the Civil War, Jones was not a professional soldier. He was a militiaman or citizen soldier called into service in 1861.

On Ship Island, Jones occupied his time with organizing his regiment's camp, drills in infantry movements, and defenses against attack. The following are a few excerpts from his diary, written in pencil, while on Ship Island. Upon arrival, Jones writes of his new surroundings:

Friday December 6th, 1861 – "Dreary place on shore—all sand—one House and Light House except a few sheds constitutes all buildings..."

Saturday December 7, 1861 – "Two Rebel Gunboats came out from direction of New Orleans—The New London and DeSota went out to engage them and they Retreated..."

Saturday December 14th, 1861 – "Spent the day in building a Log Stable at night the Kingfisher arrived bad news—all our horses killed in storm—69 horses died on the passage by improperly stowage Poor old Billy peace to his ashes..."

Tuesday January 7, 1862 – "made arrangement in AM for the Funeral of Private Goodreau of Co A who died last night – went with Gen Phelps and selected a spot for a Grave & propose to arrange it a little for a Regimental burial ground..."



Saturday January 11, 1862 – "There is room to encamp about 4000 men on the Easterly Point of the Island but they would be much troubled by musquitos and would have no place for Drill..."

Friday January 17, 1862 Fog – "all Fog — ...Fog has been so dense all day that we could not see offshore — ...I feel all out of sorts, blue – sad and do not take my usual interest in matters going on In fact there is nothing going on..."

Jones continues to write through the months of February and March 1862. Topics include fog, rain, freezing weather, boredom, burials and military drill. He writes of leading brief, uneventful forays onto the Confederate mainland, but continues usually with a theme of general boredom. On April 12th, he writes of lightning from a "fearful" storm striking eleven men and killing three.

In time, he writes of resigning his command, but decides against such an action so close to enemy lines. Jones finally leaves Ship Island in mid-April 1862 for New Orleans. Colonel Edward F. Jones was very successful after the war and was twice elected as Lieutenant Governor of New York.

GENERAL BENJAMIN BUTLER

General Benjamin Butler was a controversial political figure from Massachusetts and commanding officer of Union forces on Ship Island in 1862. Following the U.S. Navy's invasion fleet, Butler and 7,000 troops sailed up the Mississippi River to occupy New Orleans in August of 1862.

Once established in the occupied city, Butler moved quickly to arrest local citizens openly sympathetic to the Confederacy, including the hanging of an individual for tearing down the American flag. His former headquarters at Ship Island became the site of a military stockade housing suspected spies, collaborators, and sympathizers.

Fearful of Confederate counterattack against New Orleans, Butler organized several thousand free men-of-color and former slaves into militia regiments under his command. This would be one of the initial efforts leading to 180,000 African Americans serving in Union Armies during various campaigns of the Civil War.

One of Butler's early regiments of African-American soldiers from New Orleans, the Second Regiment Louisiana Native Guards, garrisoned Ship Island beginning in January of 1863.

MRS. EUGENIA PHILLIPS

Eugenia Phillips lived in New Orleans at the time of its surrender to Union forces. Accused of mocking a Union officer's funeral procession and previously suspected of "traitorous acts" in pre-war Washington, General Benjamin Butler ordered Mrs. Phillips arrested and sentenced to confinement on Ship Island--until further orders. On June 30th, 1862, Phillips departed the city accompanied by one female servant.

On arrival at Ship Island, Phillips and her maid were kept for several days in what was described as a railroad car. General Dow, then the island's commanding officer, posted sentries with instructions that no one would speak to Phillips during her stay. Conditions improved when transferred to new quarters, but Mrs. Phillips still wrote bitterly of the sand, heat, rain, food and general conditions of living on a barrier island.



Phillips' husband, a former U.S. Congressman from Alabama, interceded in New Orleans with General Butler on his wife's behalf. On September 11th, Eugenia Phillips reluctantly took an oath of honor not to give aid, comfort or information to the enemies of the United States and was allowed to depart Ship Island.

ADMIRAL DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT, U.S.N

During the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut commanded Union naval forces across the western Gulf of Mexico, from Pensacola, Florida to the Rio Grande River in Texas. His orders included the blockading and possible capture of major Confederate ports on the northern Gulf coast. Farragut's flagship, the Hartford, dropped anchor at Ship Island, Mississippi on February 20th, 1862.

Ship Island served as a supply and repair facility for the fleet under Farragut's command. Tons of coal, required for steam powered ships, were kept stockpiled on the island's shore. Close by the harbor, mechanics in shops on the beach repaired the engines powering these same vessels. Ship Island's harbor and its location, roughly one hundred miles from New Orleans, served also as the assembly area when Farragut ordered his ships to capture New Orleans and eventually gain control of the Mississippi River.

In April 1862, Farragut sailed his war-fleet past Forts Jackson and St. Phillips, Confederate held masonry fortifications on the Mississippi River. Union troops on Ship Island, waiting to follow upriver, wrote of hearing low thunder over the water towards the western horizon. This was the cannon fire being exchanged one hundred miles away as Federal warships steamed past Confederate forts towards the city.

New Orleans surrendered on April 24th and Farragut was promoted to the rank of rear admiral. An ironic note is that Farragut, a Tennessean by birth, actually lived in New Orleans as a child. A. T. Mahan, naval officer and historian, writes in his 1892 biography of Farragut that the admiral's father lived until his death in 1817 in Pascagoula, Mississippi, located not that far away from either Ship Island or New Orleans.

Ship Island figured again in Farragut's plans in late summer, 1864. His fleet sailed in early August against fortifications protecting Mobile, Alabama. During the Battle of Mobile Bay, the Union fleet encountered massive Fort Morgan, underwater mines known as torpedoes and a small fleet of Confederate warships. During the battle's confusing, early moments, Farragut exalted his ships forward through a deadly minefield with the famous cry reported in period accounts as "Damn the torpedoes!"

Following his victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay, Farragut was appointed to the newly created rank of vice-admiral. Prisoners from Confederate forts and warships that surrendered during the battle were sent to Ship Island for parole, exchange or eventual transfer to prisons in the north.

COLONEL NATHAN W. DANIELS

In late 1862, General Benjamin Butler began organizing militia units of local African Americans to help defend New Orleans from Confederate attack. He appointed Colonel Nathan W. Daniels, a fervent abolitionist, as commanding officer of the Second Regiment Louisiana Native Guards, beginning one of the early experiments of using African Americans as soldiers and officers in the Union army.



Originally from New York and Ohio, Daniels had lived in Louisiana before the Civil War and returned to New Orleans following duty with the Army of the Ohio. Daniels first led his regiment primarily in performing engineering work around the New Orleans area.

Before the Native Guards had the opportunity to be tested in combat, General Nathaniel P. Banks replaced Benjamin Butler as Union commander in New Orleans. Less than enthusiastic with the idea of African-American troops and officers, Banks ordered Daniels and the Second Regiment to garrison remote Ship Island in January 1863.

Daniels writes of monotonous duty on Ship Island. Desiring combat, his troops instead dug artillery emplacements in the sand and assisted in constructing the unfinished brick fort. Still, he expressed great pride in his men and was quite pleased with their actions during one moment in combat together, a raid against East Pascagoula, Mississippi on April 9th, 1863.

In May 1863, Nathan Daniels was arrested on charges made by an army engineering officer supervising the building of Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island's west tip. Ordered to defend against possible attack, the colonel appropriated lumber intended for the fort's construction. Daniels believed building emplacements for heavy artillery was a prudent military necessity, but after five months of waiting for trial in New Orleans, the Second Regiment's commanding officer resigned his commission to avoid court-martial and further delay.

MAJOR FRANCIS E. DUMAS

From January to July 1863, Major Francis Ernest Dumas served on Ship Island in the Second Regiment of Louisiana Native Guards. Described as refined and well-educated, Dumas was described as a biracial, prosperous, slave-owning planter in the New Orleans area. He is reported to have spoken three languages besides French and English.

Following the surrender of New Orleans to Union forces, Dumas enlisted one hundred of his slaves into a company of Native Guards. Promoted from captain to major by General Benjamin Butler, Dumas became one of the two highest ranking nonwhite commissioned officers in the war and the only one to see combat.

Serving under Colonel Nathan Daniels, Dumas participated in the 2nd Regiment's raid against East Pascagoula, Mississippi on April 9th, 1863. Fighting alongside Companies B & G of the Native Guards, Colonel Daniels commended Dumas for his actions during the day's actions against Confederate cavalry and infantry.

Following Daniel's removal from command, Dumas resigned his commission and returned to civilian life in Louisiana as a planter, becoming quite wealthy. Like other Second Regiment officers, he also became quite active in politics. During the period of Reconstruction, Dumas came within two votes of being nominated for governor in 1868. When offered the number two spot by the white Radical Republican nominee, Dumas declined.

SECOND ASSISTANT ENGINEER JOHN C.O.'CONNELL, C.S.N.

C. Carter Smith, Jr. first published the diary of John C. O'Connell in 1964. O'Connell helped bring the formidable, but slow steam-powered ram, C.S.S. *Tennessee*, into battle against Union warships at the Battle of Mobile Bay. Following intense cannon fire from opposing vessels, the O'Connell's *Tennessee* was forced to surrender upon receiving massive damage, including loss of steering capability.



First imprisoned aboard Union warships, O'Connell traveled to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Pensacola, then to a prison barracks in New Orleans and, finally on November 6th 1864, to the prison camp on Ship Island. He would occupy a tent near the beach until his exchange six months later.

Officers were kept separate from the enlisted men. He writes of monotony, boring food, foggy mornings and cold winter days. He hates those times when it is his turn to help cook for the men in his particular group.

Every four days, O'Connell has the opportunity to wander the island for a distance of two miles and back, though he says he seldom does. His treatment appears to be tolerable and notes being treated with respect by his captors, but also mentions that the enlisted men are knocked down in "...a shameful manner."

Food packages from New Orleans livened up his existence, but O'Connell writes of envy as he watches other Confederate prisoners leave the island for permanent prisons elsewhere or a possible return home. Finally on March 2nd, 1865, the naval engineer gets word that an exchange of prisoners has been arranged between sides. John C. O'Connell boards a ship and under a flag of truce sails back to Mobile and away from Ship Island.

PRIVATE ISAAC JACKSON, 83D OHIO INFANTRY

In late December 1864, the 83d Ohio infantry was transferred from Natchez, Mississippi to Pensacola, Florida by way of New Orleans. Observing Ship Island's military stockade during a brief stopover, Private Isaac Jackson, Company D, wrote the following remarks as his ship picked up freight and passengers:

"This is the most desolate place I ever saw. Its nothing but a heap of sand surrounded by water, no vegetation on whatever that I could see. I do not wonder at the "Government" for choosing this place for the punishment for the "evil workers" I should think it would be punishment enough to confine a man there without "Hard Labor." That's generally the sentence of a soldier sent there for punishment."

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER DAN MCCOLL

Following the Civil War, Ship Island's harbor provided safe anchorage for cargo carrying ships sailing from Europe, the Caribbean and South America to the Mississippi coast. Maintaining the island's lighthouse became a primary focus of activities for the island's small population.

Beginning in 1877, Dan McColl served as the keeper of Ship Island's lighthouse for nearly 25 years. Like other lighthouse keepers, his function was to ...keep the light's burning. To not properly tend the burning oil lanterns and magnificent, complex glasses lenses invited maritime disaster and death.

McColl's efforts to protect sailors and ships from shoals and shallow water were rather remarkable, considering he had only one leg. The Civil War veteran had found employment in the latter 1860's with the Central Illinois Railroad in New Orleans. In 1869, he lost his right leg at the hip in a train accident.

Despite loss of a limb, McColl received his appointment as assistant lighthouse keeper in 1875, followed by his promotion to Ship Island's keeper two years later. To tend the then traditional, round, brick lighthouse constructed, McColl had to climb up a circular stairway up some 45 feet in height.



Once atop the brick tower, he then climbed an iron ladder from the top of the stairs through a hole, measuring 18 inches by 24 inches, in the lantern room floor. Once inside the lantern room, McColl tended to fueling, cleaning and preparing the lanterns for the night's work. At least one more trip was necessary in the morning to secure equipment during the daylight hours.

By the 1880's, the old 1853 brick tower suffered from cracks and undermining from the sea. A visiting engineer warned the tower was "liable to fall at any time." McColl remarked during wild gales that the tower rocked "quite perceptibly."

In 1886, a new wooden tower standing about 76 feet above mean low tide was constructed replacing the old brick tower. McColl continued to tend his light for several more years until June 1899. After more than two decades, McColl and his wife left Ship Island to take up other duties. It was thought a new position at the Cat Island lighthouse would be considered less arduous for the veteran lighthouse keeper.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER C.H. "POP" STONE

For almost twenty years, Claude "Pop" Stone tended the wooden lighthouse on Ship Island's western end. From the early 1930's to the late 1940's, Stone kept the lights lit, guiding ships past shallow waters and low-lying islands to safety in the Ship Island's harbor.

Stone joined the United States Lighthouse Service in 1927 and took his first job as assistant at the Chandeleur light, located some 20 miles south of Biloxi and Gulfport. After three months and ten days, the young keeper gained permission to take a 23-foot boat with its two-cycle engine back home. It was one of Stone's first experiences on the open water.

As his boat putted away leaving the remote chain of islands behind, he had an idea that Gulfport was somewhere to the northwest. Fortunately, Stone survived when a hard squall struck his boat five miles south of Ship Island.

In 1931, Stone was assigned to work Ship Island lighthouse. The loneliness of a small barrier island would perhaps frighten some people, but not C.H. Stone. He, his wife and family found everyday to be an adventure as they maintained the light tower, the quarters, pier and workboats. Several of the Stone children practically grew up on the island, boarding a waiting boat when school let out for summer and not returning until the fall.

While most of his career was at Ship Island, Stone also worked lighthouses, boats and duty stations across the northern Gulf coast. In 1939, the Lighthouse Service was taken over by the U.S. Coast Guard. Given a choice, Stone enlisted as a Boatswain Mate First Class and eventually reached the rank of Chief Boatswain Mate.

During World War II, he served two years in the Pacific Ocean working aboard military supply vessels. Offered the opportunity to work elsewhere at the war's end, he chose returning to the Gulf coast and Ship Island.

Modern radar and navigational aids have lessened the needs for lighthouses. In 1947, the Coast Guard closed down Ship Island lighthouse as a manned facility, replacing with automated lights and beacons. "Pop" Stone remained in the Coast Guard until his own retirement in 1955 and died in Gulfport, Mississippi in 1997 at 91 years of age.



CENTURIES OF CHANGE



SHIP ISLAND TIMELINE





CENTURIES OF CHANGE - SHIP ISLAND TIMELINE

Gulf Island's cultural history has seen many changes over the past few centuries. The French, Spanish, British, Confederate and Union flags have all flown over Ship Island. Both Ship Island's importance and name were derived from the deep protected anchorage it provides for the ships. Here are some historical highlights from Ship Island's past history:

SHIP ISLAND CHRONOLOGY

- 1699 Island occupied by French explorers establishing Louisiana colony.
- 1702 Named Ship Island due to its protected deepwater anchorage.
- 1720 Serves as principle port of entry from Europe for colonists until 1724.
- 1763 Relinquished by France to Great Britain at the end of the Seven Years War.
- 1783 Great Britain transferred to Spain at the end of the American Revolution.
- 1810 Claimed by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1814 British fleet anchors before Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812.
- 1847 Ship Island is declared a military reservation.
- 1849 U.S. Navy anchors at Ship Island to discourage assembly of mercenaries on nearby islands for paramilitary invasion of Cuba.
- 1853 Construction begins of first brick lighthouse.
- 1858 Mississippi enacts legislation ceding jurisdiction to the United States over all of Ship Island
- 1859 Army Corps of Engineers begins construction of the fort.
- 1861 Confederate troops occupy unfinished masonry fort in July.
- 1861 July 9th Indecisive twenty-minute cannon exchange between Confederates on Ship Island and the USS Massachusetts.
- 1861 September Confederates evacuate and US troops occupy Ship Island
- 1862 US Army Corps of Engineers resumes construction of the fort now unofficially named Massachusetts in honor of the Union warship.
- 1862 US military stockade built outside fort for convicts and suspected spies.
- 1863 2nd Regiment Louisiana Native Guards assigned to guard Ship Island. One of first African-American Regiments organized during Civil War.
- 1864 Camp established east of fort to hold Confederate soldiers waiting for exchange, parole or transfer to prisons in north.
- 1865 Civil War ends. Confederate prisoners-of-war sent home.
- 1866 Fort essentially completed.
- 1870 25th Regiment transfers to San Antonio, Texas and becomes Buffalo Soldier regiment serving on the western frontier.
- 1870 Ship Island post closed and ordinance sergeant assigned to maintain the fort.



- 1870 19th Infantry Regiment temporarily encamp at Ship Island to escape yellow fever season in Louisiana.
- 1873 17 cannons mounted inside and atop fort due to possible war with Spain.
- 1880 Ship Island becomes first national quarantine station in the United States.
- 1886 Wooden lighthouse built to replace brick lighthouse undermined by waves.
- 1903 Fort Massachusetts's last ordnance sergeant relieved of duties.
- 1916 Quarantine station goes into reserve status.
- 1933 Pan Isles transfers passenger ferry service from Dog Island to Ship Island.
- 1934 Fort sold to Joe Graham American Legion Post in Gulfport.
- 1942 Coast Guard establishes anti-submarine beach patrol during WWII.
- 1942 Army Air Corps uses quarantine station as military recreation facility.
- 1955 Keesler Air Force Base uses quarantine station for military recreation.
- 1969 Hurricane Camille splits Ship Island in half.
- 1971 Ship Island and fort become part of Gulf Islands National Seashore.
- 1972 Ship Island lighthouse is accidentally burned by campers.
- 1998 Hurricane Georges washes away one mile of East Ship Island's beach.
- 1999 Friends of Gulf Islands National Seashore dedicates commemorative reproduction of 1886 Ship Island lighthouse.



ANIMALS OF THE GULF ISLANDS



NATIONAL SEASHORE





Although conditions on the barrier islands and on the mainland can be harsh, animals have adapted to the relentless summer heat and sun, and unpredictable weather extremes including hurricanes. Featured wildlife include birds, small mammals including beach mice, aquatic mammals such as otters, marine mammals such as dolphins, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans, and fish. Because of the abundance and protected status of animals at Gulf Islands National Seashore, this National Park Area is designated as a National Watchable Wildlife Area.

According to the National Watchable Wildlife's viewing etiquette visitors should keep their distance, keep a low profile since loud noises and sudden motions startle animals, and refrain from feeding animals. Remember to keep your pets on a 6-foot leash while in the park.

Wildlife watching is one of the most popular activities in National Park areas. Keep-in- mind that removing feathers, eggs or nests for natural mementos can disturb wildlife habitats. By protecting the water, air, and habitat from non-native species, it is possible to safeguard wildlife for generations to come.

BIRDS

More than 260 species of birds have been identified within the boundaries of Gulf Islands National Seashore, since its establishment in January 1971. It is home to the brown pelican, great blue heron and osprey to name a few.

Ospreys are large brown and white hawk-like birds with a six-foot wing span. They can be seen on all the islands of the Seashore including Petit Bois, Horn, East Ship, West Ship and Cat. They build large nests made up of sticks and branches in the tops of trees and snags. The adult birds hurriedly abandon their nests when people approach. Without the parents to shade the nest, the osprey eggs and chicks quickly die when exposed to the hot summer sun. On the average 65 nests are active each year on Horn Island. Over the last three years, very few, if any; chicks have survived to leave the nest. The Seashore is increasing the informational posting of bird nesting sites and asks that visitors be alert for "Area Closed" signs and avoid



these areas to help improve osprey nesting success. The signs will be removed when the baby osprey chicks leave their nest and are ready to live on their own, usually by August 1. Visitors may also encounter unmarked nesting sites. If you notice adult osprey flying up when you approach an area, it may be an unmarked nest. Please exit the area using the same route you came.

Almost 280 species of birds have been observed. Sandpipers feed along the beaches and rest on the sand flats, while herons and egrets feed in ponds and lagoons. Several species of rails live in the marshes. Marsh hens whose call sounds like laughter are endemic to the salt marshes. Terns and gulls feed and rest on the water and beaches.



Black skimmers literally skim the water's surface for food. The magnificent frigatebird is a common sight as it soars over the islands, especially in stormy weather.

Horn and Petit Bois Islands are important nesting areas for large colonies of least terns, sandwich terns, black skimmers, and royal terns. Additional species of birds including gull-billed and Caspian terns, as well as numerous



shorebirds, also nest on these islands. At least fourteen species of waterfowl utilize these areas as over-wintering grounds, the most numerous being coot and scaup. Ospreys nest on Horn, Petit Bois and East Ship Islands in the slash pine habitats. Southern bald eagles were reintroduced on Horn Island beginning in 1985. Eagles now nest again on Horn Island. There are varying estimates of the active nesting population size, but it is apparent that the birds nesting on the offshore islands constitute a substantial proportion of the entire reproducing coastal population from Texas to northern Florida.

MAMMALS

The raccoon, opossum, and armadillo call Gulf Islands their home. The Gulf is home to dolphins and whales.

Upland animal species are somewhat limited in number on Seashore barrier islands due to the lack of vegetation diversity. No large animals are common in the Seashore. Common smaller animals include marsh rabbit, eastern cottontail, Norway rat, black rat, and raccoon. Horn and Petit Bois Islands have populations of river otters and introduced nutria. Davis Bayou, where the vegetation is more diverse, has additional upland animals including opossum, squirrel, armadillo, gray fox, bats and river otters.



All marine mammals are now protected by federal laws. Marine mammals inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico include whales and dolphins. Only two species of dolphin are common in the area, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and the spotted dolphin.

FISH

The crystal clear waters surrounding the islands provide habitat for southern flounders, Florida pompano, whiting, red drum and sea trout.

More than 200 species of fish have been observed in waters around and on the barrier islands. The most abundant fish are anchovies. Silversides are abundant in the shallow near-shore waters. These are small species that, among others, provide food for larger predators. The killifish, and mosquito fish live in ponds and lagoons, and along the beaches. Myriads of larval and young fish occupy the shallow waters around the islands and find food and protection in the grass beds. These include most of the important sport and commercial species that spawn further offshore and spend the early parts of their lives in estuarine nursery areas. Speckled sea trout spawn around the islands and are probably the most sought after sport fish. The channel bass, sand sea trout, kingfish, jack, flounder, mackerel, bluefish, pompano, snapper, and many other species provide excellent surf and troll fishing. Cobia, locally known as lemon fish, and tarpon are among the large game fish. Mullet are abundant and are taken by cast nets. The scrawled cowfish, puffer, and striped burr fish provide interesting and unusual fish species.

Several species of sharks occur including hammerhead, bonnet head, Atlantic sharp nose, bull and black tip.

Stingrays rest and feed on the bottom. Southern stingrays are the most abundant, particularly in shallows, manta may be seen and spotted eagle rays occasionally jump clear out of the water.



FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, PLEASE RESPECT THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:

- A saltwater license is required if you are fishing. Know your legal requirements. Licenses are available at local bait shops.
- Release unwanted fish. Remember, unless you eat it or use it for bait, it MUST be returned to the water immediately.
- Dispose of garbage in proper receptacles.
- Do not walk on submerged sea grass beds.
- Educate others on proper fishing etiquette.
- Recycle monofilament fishing line.
- Know your bag limits and protected species.
- No commercial fishing is allowed in park waters.



REPTILES

The islands are a nesting ground for the loggerhead sea turtle and home to the diamondback terrapin, five-lined skink and the cottonmouth snake.



Seashore reptiles include various species of snakes, turtles, and lizards. Snakes include eastern coachwhip, Gulf saltmarsh snake, green water snake, and brown-banded water snake. There are also three poisonous species of snakes found in the seashore: cotton-mouth, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, and coral snake. Cooters and diamondback terrapins are the two species of turtles found in the freshwater and brackish water marshes. Box turtles and alligator snapping turtles are found inland. Five sea turtles inhabit the Gulf of Mexico and all are endangered. Loggerheads have nested on the offshore islands. (Note: Two named Sandy and Shelly, have had

transmitters attached to them in order to track them.) Lizards found in the Seashore include the eastern glass lizard, anole, sand lizard, ground lizard, and the five lined skink. American alligators are found on all the offshore islands and in Davis Bayou.

INVERTEBRATES

The blue crab, fiddler crab, and lined hermit crab are often seen on the beaches and in the marshes. The bays are home to shrimp, eastern oysters, octopus and clams.

Practically all major groups of invertebrates are represented in the marine fauna of the barrier islands. Hydroids, jellyfish and sea anemones are a part of the seashore fauna.

Jellyfish possess a clear swimming bell and long streaming tentacles. Large annual fluctuations in population densities occur and in some years there





are very few jellyfish. Several species, such as the sea nettle, can inflict a painful wound. Sea nettles are particularly abundant during the summer and fall months. The Portugese Man-of-war is abundant in June and again in December. Extensive contact with the extremely long tentacles can be dangerous.

Salinity is an important factor in the distribution of mollusks. The estuarine nature of water on the north side of the islands limits the number of species found there. Nevertheless, 163 species have been listed from the Mississippi sound. Shell collectors find a limited number of species.

Native snails include oyster drill, moon shell, and several species of olive shells.

The small bivalve coquina clam lives at the swash line in large concentrations. Cockle shells, the largest bivalve mollusks, are commonly washed ashore on all of the islands. A few oysters grow in ponds and lagoons where salinity is low enough to limit predators and disease.

The most common cephalopod is the squid that is commonly used for bait. The Atlantic octopus is abundant when the salinity is high, and they are usually driven out or killed when salinity and temperature drop too low in the winter or spring. A few species of sand dollars, starfish, brittle stars, and sea cucumbers occur in the Mississippi district.

Brown, white and pink shrimp, in order of abundance, are harvested in the Mississippi Sound. Water bottoms around the islands are important shrimp nursery areas.

Various crab species live around the islands from the foredunes out. Ghost crabs burrow in the sand and come out mostly at night to feed at the swash line. Wharf crabs run about wharves and jetties and sometimes will venture farther inland and aboard boats. Fiddler crabs burrow in beaches and intertidal areas and sometimes march in swarms along the beach. Mole crabs burrow along the swash line and hermit crabs occupy practically every available snail shell. Horseshoe crabs spawn in the intertidal beach sands, their empty casts are common along the island beaches.

Mosquitoes, sandflies, deerflies and dogflies appear in vast numbers periodically during the summer months and cause considerable human discomfort. Numerous species of mosquitoes are found in the area. The eggs are deposited above the intertidal zone on damp mud flats.





GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE



LESSON ACTIVITIES





ACTIVITY 1 ANIMALS OF THE GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

THEME: The animals in the park have certain coverings that offer protection and help them survive.

GOALS: To have a basic understanding of what each kind of wrapper does to help protect the animal from predators, and the environment.

OBJECTIVE: To name the type of covering that each animal has and be able to list some of the benefits to having each type of wrapper.

SUPPLIES: Various types of animal coverings: furs, feathers, skins

I. Introduction

- A. Park Provide overview and background of the Gulf Islands National Park
- B. Activity The name of this activity is "Animal Wrappers"
 - 1. What does that make you think of?
 - 2. What kinds of wrappers are there?
 - 3. What do the wrappers do? Animals wear "wrappers" like we wear clothes, to protect, camouflage, and warn.
 - 4. Who would like to see some wrappers of the animals that live in the park? Begin to display the various animal coverings to the group.

II. Instructors Presentation

- A. Furs: all furs can keep animals warm, some furs are water proof (otter, nutria), some furs warn (skunk), some furs camouflage, guard hairs, warn with hackles,
- B. Feathers: help a bird to fly, tail feathers help steer, long feathers on wings help flight, short feathers underneath help to insulate. Feathers also help to camouflage and attract.

III. Conclusion

- A. We saw furs and feathers, but can anyone think of any other types of wrappers? How do those animals function or keep warm?
- B. What are the reasons for having the furs or feathers for each of the animals that we have discussed?

TIME: This lesson can last up to an hour, with 20 minutes being the minimum

LOCATION: Lesson has been designed to be an indoor lesson

GRADE: K–5th

ACTIVITY 2

FLIPPERS, FUR AND SCALES – THE ANIMALS OF GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

THEME: The ocean, bayou and forest of Gulf Islands National Seashore provide habitat critical to the survival of park animals

GOAL: Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the kinds of animals that live in the park

OBJECTIVES: • Within 5 minutes, students will be able to name one endangered species that lives in the park and what habitat it lives in



- Within 10 minutes, students will be able to name two reptiles and two mammals that live in the park and what habitat these animals live in
- Within 5 minutes, students will be able to offer a description of what "endangered species" means
- Within 10 minutes, students will be able to describe at least two ways that they can help protect the animals in the park
- Within 15 minutes students will be able to name three habitats in the park and will be able to describe what a habitat is
- Within 10 minutes, students will be able to list reasons why habitat is important to both animals and people

TANGIBLES: food, water, park, alligator picture, alligator skull, alligator teeth, alligator eggs, stuffed sea turtle, sea turtle skull, sea turtle "eggs" (whiffle balls), sea turtle carapace, sea turtle ribs, sea turtle backbone, plastic bags, trash sea turtle picture, ruler, bayou, ocean and forest pictures, coyote, grey fox, skunk, nutria, opossum, raccoon furs and pictures, trees, grass, water, mother, father, babies, family, beach, islands

INTANGIBLES: home, family entertainment, survival, growth, change, death, awe, amazement, familial care, revelation, identification, protection, preservation, nursery, mother, father, babies, beauty, danger, extinction, conflict, adaptation, predation, life, sleep, habitat, understanding, love, hate, fear, struggle

TIME: Lesson can last up to an hour, with 20 minutes being the minimum

GRADE: Although this lesson was written for 2nd and 3rd grade students, it is applicable for other grades. Lesson can be tailored to any age, K-8. The lesson will vary in length and complexity depending on students' ages and teacher's focus

MATERIALS: Staff may pick from the following:

Furs	Stuffed (taxidermy) animals	Skulls/Bones
 Muskrat Nutria Whitetail Deer Grey Fox Red Fox Rabbit Raccoon Opossum Coyote Skunk 	 Large Hawksbill female Smaller Green Sea Turtle Horatio the Red-Tail Vern the Barred Owl Merlin the Merlin G. Goose (too big for transport) Todd the Gray Fox 	 Loggerhead Sea Turtle Skull Kemp's Ridley Skull (too fragile for offsite) Alligator Skull Bottlenose Dolphin Skull Pelican Skull Raccoon Skull Loggerhead Carapace Sea Turtle Rib

Miscellaneous

Stuffed Animals (for younger kids)

- Horseshoe crabs
- Seashells
- Egg Case, baby and adult whelks
- Dog, etc.



First Grade

1. Investigate the diversity of living things

- a. Classify animals as farm, zoo, pet, wild (non-domesticated), or ocean (aquatic) according to appearance and action
- b. Identify Animals by habitat (land, air, and water)
- c. Identify animals according to external features (scales, feathers, fur, etc.
- d. Identify plants and animals indigenous to Mississippi
- e. Compare plants and animals in Mississippi with those found in the jungle, desert and arctic regions
- f. Explain the term "extinct" as related to animals

2. Investigate how environmental concerns relate to the quality of life

- a. Examine pollution and how recycling helps the environment
- b. Identify ways to reduce the amount of wastes thrown away

Second Grade

1. Research the diversity and interaction of living things

- a. Define and recognize "endangered" species
- b. Compare and contrast physical and behavioral characteristics of different species
- c. Analyze the suitability of different environments in meeting the needs of plants and animals
- d. Classify animals in vertebrate categories (fish, bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile)

Third Grade:

1. Investigate the interactions of objects and organisms

- a. Identify major causes of endangerment and extinction
- b. Distinguish between harmful and helpful human actions on the environment
- c. Describe methods to prevent pollution of the environment

Fourth Grade

1. Investigate the ability of living things to adapt to their environment

- a. Compare food chains and food webs
- b. Compare and contrast adaptations necessary for animals and plants to survive in different habitats



Fifth Grade

- 1. Identify and describe structures and functions in living systems
 - a. Investigate levels of organization in organisms including cells, tissues, organs, organ systems, whole organisms, and ecosystems
 - b. Explore ecosystems and biomes
- 2. Determine the factors that influence the regulation and behavior of organisms
 - a. Identify and describe resources needed to grow, reproduce, maintain, and survive in a changing environment
 - b. Identify ways organisms adapt to their environment
- 3. Examine the physical factors of populations as they relate to the formation of an ecosystem
 - a. Identify, describe, and illustrate the roles among producers, consumers, and decomposers in a food web
 - b. Investigate resources and other factors (living and nonliving) that promote and limit growth of populations in an ecosystem
- 4. Explore the diversity and adaptations of organisms
 - a. Classify organisms by their similarities
 - b. Explore and explain biological adaptations in a particular environment

Sixth Grade

- 1. Investigate structure and functions in living system
 - a. Compare and contrast patterns and interactions of ecosystems and biomes
- 2. Explore how changing resources will influence the regulations and behavior of organisms
 - a. Evaluate the significance of resources required by organisms
 - b. Investigate, compare/contrast ways organisms adapt to their environment



ACTIVITY 3 INTERNET SCAVENGER HUNT

Using various internet websites, answer the questions below related to the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

1.	Gulf Islands National Seashore is managed by the National Service.
2.	The first people to live along the Gulf were called
3.	To reach Ship Island, the Gulfport ferry captain aims the boat to the direction.
4.	Insects known as can be bothersome during visits to a barrier island.
5.	Island is directly west of Ship Island.
6.	Island is directly east of Ship Island.
7.	The water lying between the barrier islands and the Mississippi coast is known the Mississippi
8.	Barrier islands help protect the mainland from
9.	In 1969, Island was cut into two pieces by Hurricane Camille.
10.	Island becomes first national quarantine station in the United States.
11.	The Mississippi section encompasses which islands of the Gulf Islands National Seashore,
	and,
12.	The Gulf Islands National Seashore Park stretches miles from Cat Island to the Okaloosa area near Fort Walton, Florida.
13.	In 1810,was claimed by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
14.	In the year, Mississippi enacted legislation ceding jurisdiction to the United States over all of Ship Island.
15.	The following flags have all flown over Ship Island:,
	and the



Glossary Entry Definition

Barrier Islands long, narrow islands made up of sand deposits created by waves and currents. They run parallel to the coast line and serve to protect the coast from erosion

Bayou Bienvenue is a bayou in southeastern Louisiana. The bayou crosses the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and ends in Lake Borgne, a shallow coastal lake branching from the Mississippi Sound

C.S.S. Tennessee a Confederate steam-powered, 1273 ton ram built in Selma, AL and launched February 1863. The Tennessee was used for naval defense in the Battle of Mobile Bay

Cat Island a barrier island near Ship Island. It was named by the Spanish for raccoons that they mistook for cats

Chandeleur Island the small islands that are on the east most part of Louisiana. They are uninhabited but are a migratory spot for birds and various waterfowl

Civilian a person who is not in active duty serving in the military or other public service capacity

Counterattack an attack made by a military regiment in response to an enemy attack; used to drive back the enemy

Emplacements a space or platform for a gun or battery with its accessories

Fauna all animal life in the particular area of the ocean

Filles a la cassette young ladies sent from France to establish families in early 18th century Louisiana

Flagship the best or largest ship carrying the commander of the fleet

Flora all plant life in the particular area of the ocean

Fort Massachusetts Fort built on West Ship Island for national defense. It is only accessible by boat

Garrisoned occupied with troops; fortified for strength

Horn Island a long barrier island off the coast of Mississippi that is south of Ocean Springs. The island has long stretches of dunes and drifts. It is inhabited by gulls, terns, osprey, pelicans, ducks, herons, alligators and other wildlife

Invasion To enter as an enemy, especially as an army

Louisiana Native Guards was one of the first African-American regiments to fight in the Union Army during the American Civil War

Midden garbage dump or landfill

Military Stockade an enclosure with tall walls made of logs placed side by side vertically and with tops that have been sharpened to prevent invasion

Mississippi River Valley the third largest drainage basin or valley in the world. It's watershed is 41% of the 48 continental US and two Canadian providences



EDUCATOR RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

